

January 13, 1986

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I rise to echo many of the same things that Senator DeCamp just said. I wasn't going to speak on this issue...or Senator Schmit just said, I am sorry. I wasn't going to speak on this issue until I heard the remarks of Senator Haberman and Senator Johnson in regard to the Agriculture Committee and how that relates to the environmental issues. Now I am a member of the Agriculture Committee. My business is agriculture but I am one of those people that happen to believe that the environment of this country and the environment of this state is not the sole concern of those of us who are in agriculture. The water quality problems, the environmental problems of all nature I think are a problem of all peoples and I disagree that we had ought to preserve that particular part of our committee structure just so that Agriculture Committee can deal with it. Now at the same time I say that, I recognize we have got members of the Agriculture Committee who come from the urban areas and that is appropriate. But I have no problems at all with setting up a structure or attempting to set up a structure of our committees that can at least be a little bit more easily understood, a little bit less confusion as to where particular pieces of legislation should be referenced. And I understand the concerns from people like Senator Rupp who would have a committee simply disappear. I think there are ways that we can deal with that. I certainly understand the concern of the committee chairmen but it does make a lot of sense to me that issues relating to the Constitution probably should go to those areas or those committees that deal with that particular subject matter. I would further suggest to you that this whole debate is probably not all that important to folks outside this body much as a lot of the other rules are, but I think this particular discussion on the rules does have a lot more interest outside of this body than any of the other rules changes we talk about and we need to recognize that. Finally, because of the concern raised by Senator Barrett about the calendar and the fact that there might be one-day committees meeting on a Friday, I would remind you that this rules change doesn't set the calendar. The Committee on Committees under our rules sets the calendar, decides when particular committees meet. I think Senator Barrett's point is well taken. As a member of the Committee on Committees, I would certainly advocate that same point that one-day committees had not ought to have their one day set on a Friday, days when we quite often are in recess. I happen to be the Chairman of a two-day